

**SERMON NOTES**  
**“Dangerously” (Part 1)**  
**January 3, 2021**

**OPENING:** As people of faith, we all experience life and the revelations of life in many different ways. We all experience the person of God through time, places and seasons of our lives. Sometimes we think that the experiences of others are the things that led them to a deep and abiding faith as opposed to, maybe, someone who is struggling with faith. Is it possible that to have a deeper and more meaningful experiences that led them to a deeper faith than what we have? Is that really possible to do that? Or does it have something to do with how we receive those experiences? What’s important, is that when we have a revelation of who God is, when there is a situation that kind of describes the character of God in their life, and we have them all the time, what do we do with it? How do we process it that makes all the difference in the world?

**I. Everyone Experiences God in Different Ways**

- a. Why are some people more spiritual than others?
- b. Why do some have a deep faith while others wrestle with having any type of faith?
  - i. We learn in scripture that God reveals himself to all of humankind in ways that are different but yet equal
- c. What is it that determines the type and depth of the faith that you or I have as individuals and what kind of faith you or I will have when we leave this life?
  - i. Experiences
  - ii. Attitude
  - iii. Hard work

**II. Looking At the Lives of Many Greats in the Bible**

- a. Do we find any reasoning behind an abundant faith that they had, or the lack of faith that they had?
- b. What do we see as the things that led them to faith or that kept them from developing a faith?

**III. In This Series**

- a. We are going to look at the lives of several well-known biblical characters
- b. We are going to look at the similarities and the differences in how these people experienced God
- c. What these well-known characters did with those experiences,
- d. How the experiences shaped their belief system, and
- e. How these experiences aided them in making the choices that they had to make along the way.

**IV. Why Are We Doing This?**

- a. Because you and I experience God in different ways too – just like these biblical characters we are going to look at
- b. We also have the same responsibility:
  - i. To process those experiences with God

- ii. To implement them into our lives, what are we going to do with those experiences with God
- iii. Are we going to use them and understand that these are situations and things that God has created in our life for us to experience
- iv. Or, maybe it was something that hindered our faith, or something that we blamed God for
- v. What is it that we are going to do with those experiences of life, to grow in our knowledge, our faith and our trust in our Creator

## **V. Eve**

- a. She was born of God and in a very special place – The Garden of Eden
- b. The Garden of Eden was a beautiful place, it was a perfect existence, a place where God lavished them with all kinds of good things
- c. In the Garden of Eden, we know that Eve had a one-on-one relationship with God
- d. We know that she saw God face to face
- e. We know that she had an ongoing relationship with God
- f. We also know from scriptures that she understood the things that God deemed as right and wrong –
- g. She understood what she could do and not do living in the Garden of Eden with God was all about
  - i. But, yet we also know that she completely disobeyed His commands at one particular time
  - ii. This disobedience ultimately led to the sinful nature of humankind being brought into existence into the world
  - iii. And it led to our separation from God
  - iv. Because of that sin, because of that disobedience, she had to experience
    - 1. The pain of childbirth,
    - 2. The experience male dominance
    - 3. And she had to experience death, through the death of her own son

## **VI. Mary**

- a. Mary was also born of God
- b. From what we know, she too was born in a decent place
- c. But unlike Eve, Mary did not get to see the God face to face
- d. She never talked to Him one-on-one like Eve did
- e. But, we believe that she sought God, along with her family, throughout her life
- f. And she also understood the basic principles of what God deemed as right and wrong

## **VII. The Difference Between Eve and Mary**

- a. Eve
  - i. Eve had no experience of sin when she was tempted, she didn't know evil or sin
  - ii. Eve had not yet experienced the consequence of sin, neither her own or the sin of others and how those experiences could affect their life
  - iii. And Eve didn't know about or experience death because it had not yet happened
- b. Mary
  - i. Mary knew about sin, and the consequences of sin, and she knew death,

## **VIII. Mary and Eve Had the Same Choice**

- a. Both Mary and Eve knew guilt, turmoil and temptation
- b. They both had the same choice to make: To obey God, or not to obey God
- c. Unlike Eve, Mary obeyed God despite the known consequences, even under the threat of death by stoning
- d. Eve, on the other hand, would have known nothing of death because it didn't yet exist
- e. But it should have been easier for Eve to trust in what God was asking her to do, or not do, than it was for Mary
  - i. Because Eve lived in a perfect place
  - ii. Because she lived in that one-on-one relationship with Adam and with God
  - iii. She didn't want for anything
- f. That's why what Eve did was so gravely wrong
  - i. Eve had all of the evidence, she had everything in front of her that you and I might ask for today and yet she let desire overcome trust
  - ii. She had no reason to not trust Him and yet she still turned away from God
- g. Mary knew the effects of sin, could have not trusted God, yet she trusted Him wholeheartedly

## **IX. In Our Lives**

- a. We learn to trust in people, we have to learn to trust in situations based on what we "know" about the, based on their intentions, history and actions
- b. Example: D-Day
  - i. One of the most important days of WWII
  - ii. Thousands of American soldiers descended on the beaches of Normandy and other places
  - iii. Why? The average soldier didn't know about the overall plan of attack; they knew their part
  - iv. It was common knowledge that they would most likely experience heavy losses
  - v. They didn't know what all of the contingency plans that were place in case of certain events
  - vi. So why did these American soldiers choose to obey and place themselves in harm's way?
  - vii. Answer: American soldiers stormed the Normandy beaches because they believed in those who were in command
    1. Their instructions were clear
    2. They knew each soldier would protect each other
    3. They knew their leaders and commanders wanted zero losses, if at all possible
    4. They believed the goal was honorable and good, they knew what they were fighting for
    5. More than anything, I believe, they chose to trust in their leadership, in the history of those leaders, of their reputation and past accomplishments, based on what they had done for what was done before
    6. In short, they trusted their leader(s) – for everything!

## **X. Proverbs 3:5-6**

- a. *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight.”*

## **XI. Steve Harvey Put It This Way**

- a. Your whole success in life is tied into your relationship with God!
  - i. In other words, trust in God with all of your heart,
  - ii. in other words, don't lean completely on your own understanding of things because you're not going to be able to understand it all,
  - iii. in other words, submit to God,
    1. Trust in who He is
    2. Trust that He has everything worked out
    3. Trust in the character of God that we read about in The Book
  - iv. Do like those soldiers who stormed the Normandy beach and trusted in the person, or the God over you, that has placed all of these things under a microscope and has worked everything out

## **XII. Do You?**

- a. Eve: Do you trust Him to keep you safe, free, healthy, and filled with peace and purpose in the Garden of Eden? Did you have to give in to your doubts?
- b. Mary: You know the consequences of what God is asking you to do, and they don't look good, but will you trust Him to keep you safe, free, healthy, and filled with peace and purpose?
- c. You: We know the consequences of what following Jesus is all about in this life.
  - i. We know about the acceptance, the rebellion, the rejection, about all of those things.
  - ii. We have the advantage point where we can understand, we can read scriptures and learn about the promises of God,
  - iii. We can learn about what it is that God is saying to us: “follow Me, be faithful to Me, and I'm going to wipe away every tear one day, and you will be restored in your relationship with Me”
  - iv. All the wonderful things that God has planned for us
- d. Sometimes when we look at life, it doesn't make sense, and surely doesn't seem like we are going in that direction
- e. Will you trust in Him to keep you safe, free, healthy, and filled with peace and purpose?

## **XIII. The Fault Eve Experienced**

- a. She lost her sense of reason, she took it away from very nature of who God is.
- b. Instead, Eve took her focus away from who God has been and had been to her through who knows how many years they were there in the Garden of Eden,
- c. She took her focus away from the nature and character of God, to start to doubt individual circumstances of God.
  - i. He had always been faithful.
  - ii. He had always provided for them.
  - iii. He had always given them perfect peace and purpose in life, and they wanted for nothing.
- d. Eve simply allowed doubting to enter her heart of God's character.

- e. It was kind of brought on by those four words that still ring out in our lives and church today, and that was when the serpent said, “Did God really say . . .? Did God really say not to eat of that particular tree in the garden?”

**Closing:** It’s the same for you and I today: Did God really say that He would eventually give you a good life? Did God really say He would protect and care for you if you trusted in Him? Did God really say He would wipe away every tear? There are so many things that we can look at and ask that question. And a lot of them I can’t answer. I don’t have the answers. What I do know is that the nature and character of God is to give me blessings upon blessings, upon care, upon love, upon purpose God has the best of things in store for me. He has quite clearly given me the instructions: Be faithful, trust in Me, don’t just trust in yourself, trust in Me and I will bring you to a place that you could never ever imagine. It’s the one thing you and I as Christians, especially today amidst Covid-19, and all of the other issues we have in the world today. It’s so easy to get off track, distracted, discouraged, and I see that in the church today, people are struggling with faith, struggling with believing that God is leading us to a good place, they are struggling with believing God is really in control. We believe that God really doesn’t need our help, when what He really needs is our faithfulness in order to accomplish His Will. There are all kinds of reasons not to believe that God has our best interest at hand, but here’s the bottom line: the very nature of God, the very character of God that I have experienced, and I know you have also experienced in your life, says different. It says, I can be trusted, that regardless of what you see around you, lean not on your own understanding. As Steve Harvey put it, *“what your life looks like is based on your relationship with God.”*